

strongly *alternate medication*, changing from KI to Hg and back every few weeks. This treatment is to be continued long after the disappearance of all symptoms. As auxiliary means he advises cold douches, which in his experience as well as that of Charcot, hasten the cure materially, especially in syphilitic epilepsy. All special indications are of course fulfilled by the usual palliative and other means. The cure being accomplished Fournier insists for some time on strict hygiene, *i. e.*, avoidance of all excesses, especially venereal indulgence, exertions, and brain work, his object being to give the brain absolute rest.

This incomplete review of the salient points of the book can give the reader an estimate of its value. It is the result of a large experience of a careful, logical observer. It contains a good deal which cannot be found in any one work, though perhaps little entirely original with the author. It can be read profitably by everyone, especially in this country, where brain syphilis is either very rare, or overlooked. But it requires attention to read it, in order to recognize at once when the author schematizes, which he does a great deal. At any rate the title, clinical lectures, is not an appropriate one. With due care one will find the book very valuable for practical purposes. But the reader will be disappointed if he expects scientific research, either in the account of autopsies, or in physiological modes of examination.

H. G.

SHORTER NOTICES.

- I. FIFTH BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC CHARITIES OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. Presented to the Governor, November, 1878. Springfield, 1879. 310 pages.
- II. THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. Instituted 1847. Vol. XXIX. Philadelphia: Printed for the Association, 1878.
- III. A CLINICAL TREATISE ON DISEASES OF THE LIVER. By Dr. Fried. Theo. Frerichs. In three volumes. Translated by Chas. Murchison, M. D., F. R. C. S. New York: Wm. Wood & Co., 1879.
- IV. DISEASES OF THE INTESTINES AND PERITONEUM. By John Syer Bristowe, M. D., J. R. Wardell, M. D., J. W. Bigbie, M. D., S. O. Habershon, M. D., T. B. Curling, F. R. S., and W. H. Ransom, M. D. New York: Wm. Wood & Co., 1879.
- V. POTT'S DISEASE. ITS PATHOLOGY AND MECHANICAL TREATMENT, WITH REMARKS ON ROTARY LATERAL CURVATURE. By Newton M. Shaffer, M. D. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1879. Chicago: Jansen, McClurg & Co.

VI. **POSOLOGICAL TABLE:** Including all the Official and the most frequently employed Unofficial Preparations. By Charles Rice, Chemist, Department of Public Charities and Corrections in New York. New York: Wm. Wood & Co., 1879. Chicago: W. T. Keener.

I. The report of the Commissioners of State Charities for Illinois commences with the statistical and other information in regard to the different charitable institutions, from which it appears that a careful scrutiny is given to the expenses of these establishments. A reduction of nearly two hundred and fifty thousand dollars from the amount asked for the two years which had to be provided for by the last legislature was recommended, and apparently very good reasons for the most part are given for the recommendation.

In regard to a request for one thousand dollars for apparatus for pathological investigation from the Northern Asylum at Elgin, the commissioners say, "The apparatus for a pathological laboratory would be useless without a pathologist." We regret that this is so; the medical superintendent and assistant physicians of such an institution should be themselves competent to undertake pathological investigations, and should have the time as they have the opportunity for such work. Still we doubt whether one thousand dollars would produce adequate scientific results within two years in many of the asylums of this country as they are at present organized. As regards the appointment of a pathologist for the State asylums, the commissioners say that without co-operation of all of these institutions, he cannot well be appointed, and they therefore advise the postponement of the consideration of the subject for the present.

The actual increase of insanity in the State is admitted and accounted for by the more settled condition of the population, gradually approaching the condition of older States, and being no longer made up of the more healthy frontier population. "An increase in the number of the insane is to be expected, until the ratio of deaths of insane persons to the entire population is equal to the ratio of new cases not restored to reason. None of the States in the great Mississippi valley have as yet reached that point. We have, however, seen no evidence that there is any increase in the number of new cases each year relatively to the total population."

The question of the Illinois law of commitment of the insane, which has already been noticed in the editorial columns of the JOURNAL, is discussed at some length. The efforts to obtain a change in the law failed with the last legislature, and all the evils of the present system have another two years' lease of life. We need not repeat here our own opinions on this subject, we have expressed them elsewhere, and we hope what is stated in this report may have some good effect in the future. We would advise the State Board not to abandon the cause, but devise new plans of reform that may be more successful than the last.

Another important recommendation in the report, is that some provision be made for the criminal insane apart from the general hospitals. Our readers will probably readily recall Dr. Dewey's article on this subject in the *JOURNAL* last October, which is alluded to in this report.

Appendix I. contains statistical tables of the various institutions. Appendix II. is an elaborate and valuable report on the county jails of the State, in which is contained a description of every jail in the State. The facts stated, though not worse than those that could be collected in other States, are not as a whole creditable to the great State of Illinois, or rather to the local authorities who are responsible. But there is more of interest in appendix III., which contains descriptions of every county almshouse in the State. As these establishments are the receptacles of a majority of the chronic insane it is a matter of interest to our readers to learn in what manner these unfortunates are treated. In a few of the counties they seem to be well cared for and one (Cook) has a regular county asylum containing over four hundred inmates. In the great majority, however, no adequate provision is made for their care, and in some of the poorhouses their treatment is simply abominable. This portion of the report will be useful reading for the county boards throughout the State. The final appendix IV. is Dr. Wines' report on the International Prison Congress at Stockholm, which he attended as a delegate commissioned by the Governor of Illinois, concluding with Dr. Wines' paper on the Foreign Hospitals for the Insane, read before the conference of charities in this city, last month. We hope to notice this at length at a future time.

As a whole, the report is a very creditable showing for the State Board of Charities, and especially for its Secretary, Dr. F. H. Wines, whose labor it chiefly represents. We trust it will be widely circulated and read in the quarters where it will do the most good.

II. The Transactions of the American Medical Association, with the prize essay on the Surgical Anatomy of the Carotid and Innominate and Subclavian Arteries, which is included in the same covers, forms a bulky volume of over eleven hundred pages. It contains the usual collection of papers and addresses before the sections, with record of proceedings, and a large part of the volume is taken up with obituary notices of prominent deceased physicians, largely compiled by Dr. J. M. Toner, of Washington, D. C.

The only neurological papers are by Dr. Walter Kempster, of the Northern Wisconsin Asylum, one the address on Medical Jurisprudence and Psychology, and the other on general paresis. The first of these is for the most part a general compilation of recent researches in neurology, and the latter is mainly given to brief clinical histories and accounts of post-mortem appear-

ances in the brain in some twenty cases of general paresis, observed by the author. He repeats a statement made also by others, but which we have not ourselves verified, that this disease is rare in the Western States. It may be more common on the Atlantic seaboard, but it is unfortunately by no means a rarity in Illinois, or more particularly in Chicago, where our observations have been made.

The other articles call for no special notice; the volume compares well with its predecessors.

III. These three volumes are the reprint of a standard work, which if not one of the most recent date, is still one that is valuable to all practitioners of medicine. It belongs to the very economical and useful series now being issued by William Wood & Co. at a dollar a volume. We have already expressed our opinion as to the value of this series; the present volumes are of course uniform in style with the others and well worth the money to their purchaser.

IV. This is the latest published volume of William Wood & Co.'s dollar series. The articles it contains are mostly short and to the point, the names of their authors, Dr. Habershon, Begbie, Bristowe, Curling, etc., are sufficient recommendation to our readers.

V. This is a surgical monograph taking up a question of surgical pathology and therapeutics, and advocating a plan decidedly different from the one most in vogue. The author condemns the practice of suspension and the use of the plaster of Paris jacket, and recommends the principle of antero-posterior support as given by an apparatus which he describes at length and calls the "plaster zone apparatus." Eight cases illustrating success in the use of this apparatus are described. The work is worthy of the careful attention of every surgeon.

VI. This is the most complete dose book we have lately met with, including a very large number of non-official remedies. It cannot fail to be useful, and it has some peculiarities that specially add to its value, such as the brief remarks in regard to the preparations, the indications of poisonous drugs and the cautions as to dose, the specific gravities, etc., etc. It concludes with comparative tables of common and decimal weights and measures, actual and approximate. The only improvement we can suggest would be the naming of the principal antidotes to the poisonous drugs, which are not given. But, as it is, it is a very convenient and useful little book.